

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for displaying alerts in a communication network, the method comprising:  
receiving an alert from a first device coupled to the communication network;  
generating within a home, a message corresponding to said received alert; and  
displaying said generated message on a television screen within said home.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying said generated message along with a media broadcast on said television screen within said home.
3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving an acknowledgement of said displayed message via a user selection.
4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising receiving said acknowledgement via a remote control that controls functions for said television screen.
5. The method according to claim 3, further comprising terminating display of said generated message upon said receiving of said acknowledgement.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said alert indicates a status of at least said first device and a second device.
7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said first device is located outside said home and said second device is located within said home.
8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving said alert via at least one of a wired and a wireless connection.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying said generated message for a predetermined period of time.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying said generated message in at least one of a pop-up window, a picture-in-picture (PIP) window and a banner on said television screen.

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11. A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for displaying alerts in a communication network, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

receiving an alert from a first device coupled to the communication network;  
generating within a home, a message corresponding to said received alert; and  
displaying said generated message on a television screen within said home.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code that causes said generated message to be displayed along with a media broadcast on said television screen within said home.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for receiving an acknowledgment of said displayed message via a user selection.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, further comprising code for receiving said acknowledgement via a remote control that controls functions for said television screen.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, further comprising code for terminating display of said generated message upon said receiving of said acknowledgement.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein said alert indicates a status of at least said first device and a second device.

17. The machine-readable storage according to claim 16, wherein said first device is located outside said home and said second device is located within said home.

18. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for receiving said alert via at least one of a wired and a wireless connection.

19. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising displaying said generated message for a predetermined period of time.

20. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code that causes said generated message to be displayed in at least one of a pop-up window, a picture-in-picture (PIP) window and a banner on said television screen.

21. A system for displaying alerts in a communication network, the system comprising:

at least one processor that receives an alert from a first device coupled to the communication network;

said at least one processor generates within a home, a message corresponding to said received alert; and

said at least one processor causes said generated message to be displayed on said television screen within said home.

22. The system according to claim 21, where said at least one processor causes said generated message to be displayed along with a media broadcast on said television screen within said home.

23. The system according to claim 21, where said at least one processor receives an acknowledgment of said displayed message via a user selection.

24. The system according to claim 23, where said at least one processor receives said acknowledgement via a remote control that controls functions for said television screen.

25. The system according to claim 23, where said at least one processor terminates display of said generated message upon said receiving of said acknowledgement.

26. The system according to claim 21, wherein said alert indicates a status of at least said first device and a second device.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein said first device is located outside said home and said second device is located within said home.

28. The system according to claim 21, where said at least one processor receives said alert via at least one of a wired and a wireless connection.

29. The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor causes said generated message to be displayed for a predetermined period of time.

30. The system according to claim 21, where said at least one processor causes said generated message to be displayed in at least one of a pop-up window, a picture-in-picture (PIP) window and a banner on said television screen.

31. The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor is at least one of a media processing system processor, a media management system

processor, a computer processor, a media exchange software processor and a media peripheral processor.